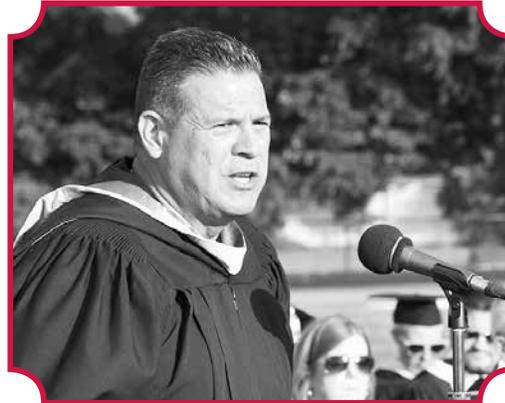




# EAST ISLIP

UNION FREE SCHOOL DISTRICT

SUMMER NEWSLETTER 2024

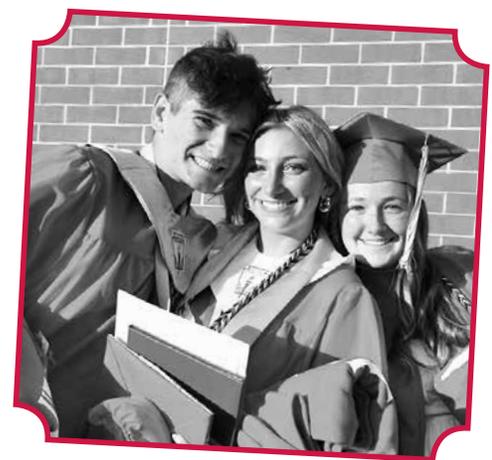


## EAST ISLIP'S CLASS OF 2024

### CELEBRATES A JOURNEY OF VALUABLE EXPERIENCES



East Islip High School celebrated its 97th commencement on June 25 in a sunny evening ceremony. Clad in red and white, the excited, soon-to-be graduates walked onto Sal Ciampi Field at Boomer Esiason Stadium to the sounds of the high school's orchestra, directed by Giovanna Sciandra.



Once seated, Lorelai Mucciolo and Hanna Ross led the Pledge of Allegiance, Ross sang "The Star-Spangled Banner," and the vocal quintet of Anthony Ashley, Julia Fink, Ryan Kelpie, Brendan Kroupa and Mucciolo delivered a stirring "America the Beautiful," all with the school's Advanced American Sign Language class interpreting. In attendance were the alumni of the Class of 1975, who each received certificates commemorating their 50th reunion. Before the distribution of diplomas, the school's Top 25 academic students



*(continued on page 2)*

# EAST ISLIP'S CLASS OF 2024 CELEBRATES A JOURNEY OF VALUABLE EXPERIENCES

(continued from cover)

were recognized, and the assembly heard numerous inspiring speeches.

"You have grown into young adults, and I'm certain that the best is yet to come," Principal Mark Bernard told the seniors. "I look forward to hearing about all the great things you'll accomplish."

"Fellow classmates, as we stand on the brink of a new adventure, never forget that the true value of the journey lies within the journey itself," salutorian Kevin Huang said. "Go chase your dreams, but always take a moment to reflect on what got you here."

Valedictorian Kathryn O'Hara then talked to her classmates about the fear of failure. "Failing is a lesson in life that allows us not only to survive, but to thrive," she said. "A success is only possible when a true attempt is made. So, instead of fearing failure, embrace it."

"Remember that growth is a constant journey," Superintendent Paul Manzo reminded the graduates. "Every step you take, every challenge you overcome and every success you achieve will be value added to your story."

"Whichever path you take from this point in your life, remember

that East Islip will always be your home," Board of Education President Michael Dorgan said. "On behalf of the Board of Education, I congratulate these graduates and their families, and wish you all the best of luck wherever your journey in life takes you."

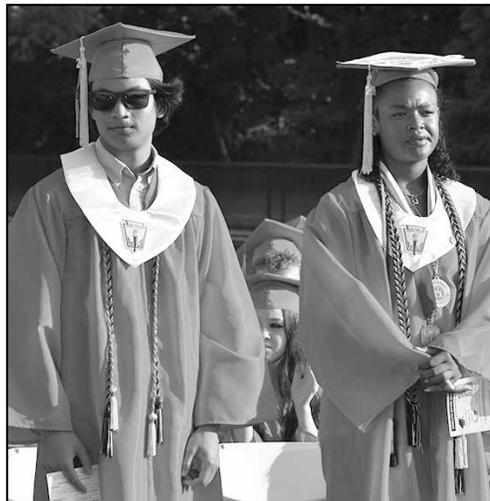
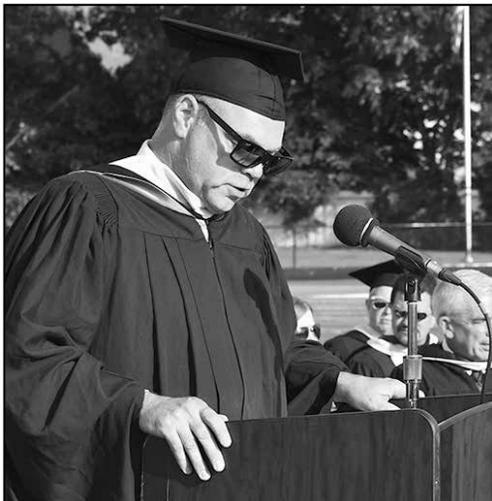
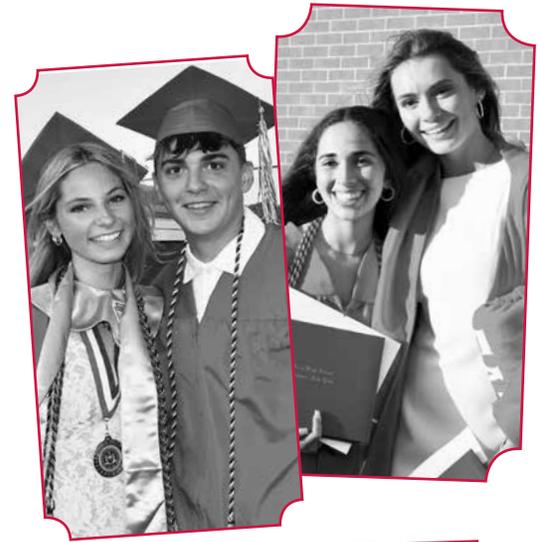
The final bittersweet farewell speeches came from Class of 2024 co-presidents Mary Ranzie and Skylar Reilly.

"The impact this school had on my life as well as my fellow classmates is irreplaceable, and I cannot thank the school enough for making me the person I am today," Ranzie said.

Reilly lauded the late alumnus Sgt. Craig B. Gariepy, her grandfather's best friend from the Class of 1969, who was killed in action in the Vietnam War.

"The streets and the town that built us make a mark and leave a legacy," she said. "We grow up feeling EI pride, but it's now our turn to create it."

With pride in their hearts and the future awaiting them, the Class of 2024 turned their tassels and hurled their caps into the sky before walking off the field to the embrace of friends and family.



## The East Islip High School CLASS OF 2024

Total Number of Graduates: 283

Number of Local College  
Scholarships: 64

Seal of Civic Readiness: 42

Seal of Biliteracy: 14

AP Capstone Diplomas: 3

AP Scholar: 15

AP Scholar with Distinction: 16

AP Scholar with Honor: 20

Advanced Regents Diplomas: 209

Total Regents Diplomas: 69

Four-Year Colleges: 68.2%

Two-Year Colleges: 18%

Technical School: 3.9%

Students Entering Workforce: 5.7%

Students Entering Military: .71%

# Top 10 Seniors

## Celebrated With Breakfast

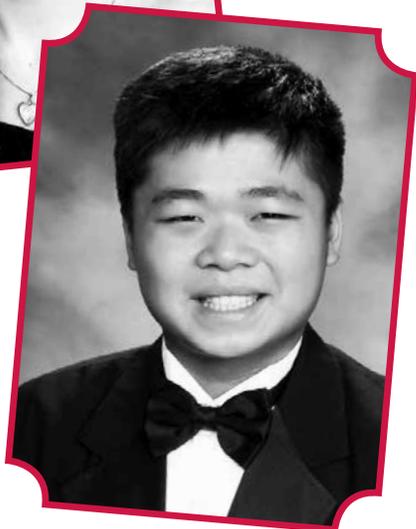
East Islip High School honored its 10 highest-ranking academic seniors of the Class of 2024 with a breakfast celebration with Superintendent Paul Manzo, Principal Mark Bernard, school administrators and counselors in the school's Forum. Those recognized as the top 10 members of the Class of 2024 are valedictorian Kathryn O'Hara, who will attend Tufts University (majoring in engineering); salutatorian Kevin Huang, who will attend Massachusetts Institute of Technology (majoring in computer science); Logan Beaumont, who will attend Stony Brook University (majoring in chemistry/pre-med); Kailyn Bloch, who will attend Monmouth University (majoring in nursing); Mairead Cardillo, who will attend University of Delaware (majoring in actuarial sciences); Julia Fink, who will attend Smith College



(majoring in government/psychology); Jack Milligan, who will attend Le Moyne College (majoring in business analysis); Lorelai Mucciolo, who will attend Buffalo State University (majoring in speech pathology); Patrick Vasquez, who will attend Denison University (major undeclared); and Jack Wodicka, who will attend SUNY Geneseo (majoring in adolescent education/English).

# Meet East Islip's 2024

## Valedictorian and Salutatorian



East Islip High School's Class of 2024 valedictorian and salutatorian are Kathryn O'Hara and Kevin Huang, respectively.

An AP Scholar with Distinction, O'Hara served as president of the Science Honor Society and is a National Honor Society member, Rotary Youth Leadership Awards facilitator, Just for Kicks senior instructor and ACE Mentor Program of Greater NY volunteer. She is an accomplished musician, playing in the school's pit orchestra, serving as Honors Symphony president and earning SCMEA All-County honors on viola. O'Hara will attend Tufts University in Massachusetts, majoring in civil engineering.

An AP Scholar with Distinction, Huang served as president of the Math Honor Society. As a musician, he was named Tri-M Music Honor Society president and earned NYSSMA All-State and SCMEA All-County honors on violin. In athletics, he was the captain of the school's varsity boys tennis team and earned All-County honors. Huang will attend Massachusetts Institute of Technology, majoring in computer science.

# High School Unveils **WALL OF HONOR**



East Islip High School unveiled its new Wall of Honor video display this May, honoring local veterans, current military service members and those killed in action. The friends and family of two veterans and East Islip alumni – Craig B. Gariepy and Robert Pope – were invited to cut the ribbon on the Wall of Honor,

and Gariepy's daughter began the display's slide show. The flag for the Wall was provided by U.S. Rep. Andrew Garbarino, who had it flown over the capital for the school, and was presented by the congressman's assistant, Lindsey Ekizian. The installation was facilitated by Assemblyman Jarett Gandolfo.

Guests attending the ceremony included Town of Islip Supervisor Angie Carpenter and Suffolk County Legislator Trish Bergin, and members of Amvets Post 18 were on hand to present the colors.

“As the proud superintendent of schools and a member of the Army Reserves, I am honored to serve this incredible community we are a part of,” Superintendent Paul Manzo said. “The unveiling of the Wall of Honor is not just a collection of names; it symbolizes our commitment to the spirit of service and the lasting legacy of sacrifice that defines our nation. The outpouring of support from our local leaders and the East Islip community truly reflects the appreciation and respect we hold for all our service members.”

---

## MOCK TRIAL TEAM TAKES THIRD AT *Law Day Tournament*

East Islip High School's mock trial team placed an impressive third at the 50th annual Long Island Law Day tournament this spring. Sponsored by Project PATCH, the New York State Bar Foundation and Touro Law School, the competition challenges teams through six rounds of fast-paced civil law trials. In each round, students are given a new fact pattern and 15 minutes to prepare an entire legal case. The format tests students' knowledge of the law and their ability to think on their feet and speak extemporaneously. East Islip made it to the semifinals and finished third overall.



# EAST ISLIP HS RECEIVES RECORD NUMBER OF TEENY AWARDS NOMINATIONS

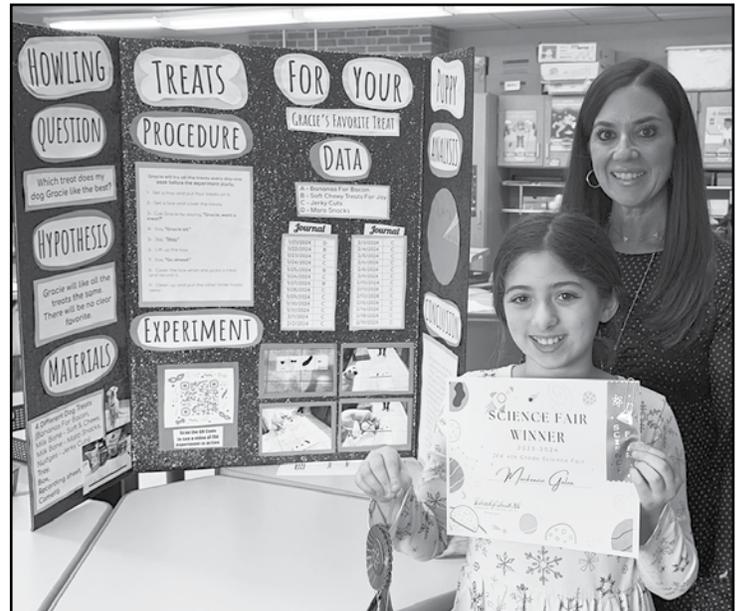
East Islip High School's students and theatrical directors were thrilled to receive 21 Teeny Awards nominations – a record number – this year for their two full-scale productions of “Game of Tiaras” (presented in November 2023) and “Mean Girls: High School Version” (presented in March 2024). The Teeny Awards are modeled after the Broadway Tony Awards, recognizing theater students in high schools across the Town of Islip in the categories of Best Ensemble, Featured Actor/Actress, Lead Actor/Actress, and Supporting Actor/Actress, for both musicals and nonmusical plays.



## JFK and RCK

### Hold Annual Science Fair Competitions

East Islip's young scientists from John F. Kennedy Elementary School and Ruth C. Kinney Elementary School worked to create the best and most innovative projects in the schools' annual science and engineering design fairs. JFK's winner was Mackenzie Galea for her project “Howling Treats for Your Puppy!” Luke Halverson won second place and Henry McCafferty earned third. RCK's winner was Adriana Perez for her project “Hydraulics,” with Olivia Sedlock and Annabella Toala taking second and third. Galea and Perez moved on to showcase their projects at Brookhaven National Laboratory's Elementary Science Fair Competition on June 8.



# Academic Team Clinches TOP SPOT ON LONG ISLAND

East Islip High School's junior varsity academic team clinched a top spot at the 2024 Long Island Championship Quiz Bowl, held at Plainview-Old Bethpage John F. Kennedy High School. Forty-four high schools from Nassau and Suffolk counties competed in the event, with East Islip's JV team ranking among the elite at No.19 on Long Island. This was only the third appearance for East Islip in the Long Island Championship, and the team proved to be a strong contender against several powerhouse schools. Team members included the best and brightest in the high school: Lucas Atunes, Liam Eichler, Lance Enriquez, Ryan Flad, Brandon Fray, Erica Huang, Kevin Huang, Shazaib Khan and Jesse Najera.



## JUNIOR RYAN FLAD Wins Rensselaer Medal

East Islip High School junior Ryan Flad was named the winner of this year's Rensselaer Medal, which recognizes excellent academic achievement and serves to inspire students pursuing careers in engineering, science and technology. Founded in 1824, the Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute in Troy, New York, is the oldest technological institution in North America. For more than 100 years, it has awarded the Rensselaer Medal to exemplary high school juniors who excel in the areas of math and science. This merit scholarship has a value of \$120,000 and is guaranteed for four years for each medalist who applies, is accepted and enrolls at Rensselaer.



# SPECIAL OLYMPICS ATHLETES BRING HOME 20 Medals

East Islip's Special Olympics team – featuring 11 dedicated athletes from East Islip High School, East Islip Middle School, Cleary School for the Deaf and alumni – successfully competed in the Special Olympics New York Long Island Spring Games, hosted by Plainedge High School in May. The festivities began a day earlier with the annual kickoff breakfast at the high school, attended by the athletes, coaches, family members, high school volunteers,

SEPTO and East Islip administration. Family and fans in the stands cheered on East Islip's athletes at the Games as they competed in a variety of track

and field events, bringing home 10 gold medals, eight silver medals, two bronze medals and two fourth-place ribbons.



The East Islip School Business Partnership held its third annual STEAM Day program this spring, consisting this year of a two-part program – an evening event for middle and high school students and community members to visit, as well as a daytime event the following day for elementary students. Elementary teachers highlighted their work igniting the concepts of STEAM for the younger students, the Science Honor Society created a Bubble Fun station, the Art Honor Society demonstrated different artistic expressions, the Math Honor Society showed how math is everywhere, the technology department demonstrated programs such as the WFTK broadcast station and robotics classes held a robot faceoff. In a new feature, high school cosmetology classes held demonstrations. Lastly, School Business Partnership members took these STEAM concepts into the future by showing how they are presented in the workplace.

## STEAM DAY Makes Learning Fun



\*\*\* ECRWSS \*\*\*

Postal Customer • Local Resident Delivery

# EIHS Hosts Local Scholarship Awards Night

East Islip High School held its annual Senior Local Scholarship Awards Night on June 5, hosted by Dr. Jason Stanton, the school's director of careers and student services. Many dozens of deserved awards and scholarships were presented to East Islip's proud seniors.

"Each student here is a representation of academic excellence, dedication to our community and a symbol of perseverance," Dr. Stanton said. "They are the definition of EI Pride."



# GRADUATING SENIOR MATT MCINTEE

## WINS DELLECAVE AWARD

East Islip High School 2024 graduate Matt McIntee was named as the male winner of the 2024 Butch Dellecave Award, recognizing excellence in the three categories of academics, athletics and community service. The top male and female student-athlete in each school in Suffolk County are nominated for the prestigious Dellecave Award, with six of those nominees selected as finalists, and one male and one female student in the county named as winners. McIntee was honored at the annual Dellecave Award brunch ceremony, held June 9 at Villa Lombardi's in Holbrook.

A three-sport athlete, McIntee was a three-year starter at wide receiver and defensive back for



East Islip's varsity football team, helping the Redmen win the Long Island championship in 2023 and earning a first-team All-State designation as a senior. As a captain and key member of the boys varsity track team, he helped East Islip claim the first Suffolk County championship in school history. He also won the 2024 Suffolk Zone Award for leadership in physical education.

• **BOARD OF EDUCATION** •

Michael Dorgan, President  
Stephen Ruland, Vice President • Jessica Ciampi, Trustee  
Timothy Sassone, Trustee • Christopher Zachry, Trustee  
Paul E. Manzo, Superintendent of Schools

*This newsletter is published by the Board of Education as a community service to inform the public of school news and business. If you have any questions, please feel free to call 631-224-2000 or fax 631-581-1617.*